

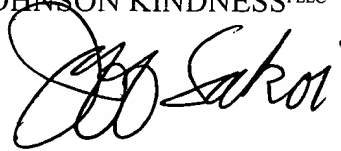
process; (2) Groups II, IV, and V are unrelated because they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects.

The Examiner requires, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, the election of one of the above groupings of claims. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, applicants respectfully elect Group I, having the Claims 1-14 and 18-30.

If the Examiner believes the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

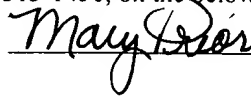
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: December 3, 2004



JMS:mgp

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